

NEW YORK JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER.

W. R. HEARST.

AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

LET THE PEOPLE USE THE LIBRARIES.

The municipal allowance for free circulating libraries having been reduced from \$82,000 to \$61,500 the managers of those institutions announce the intention of closing them on Sundays. Comptroller Coler declares that the libraries could easily be kept open every day within the new appropriation if the persons in charge of them cared to make the effort.

They not only can be kept open on Sundays, but they must be.

The free libraries are an essential part of our educational system. They carry on and complete the work of the public schools. They are quite as important as the schools themselves. Indeed they are more important. The schools do not give an education—they merely give the pupil a pick and shovel with which he may dig out an education for himself. The library is the mine to which he must go for his ore.

Now it happens that most of our people cannot visit a library on any other day than Sunday. Therefore if it became absolutely impossible to keep the libraries open every day, Sunday would be the one day of the week on which they should not be closed. If they could be kept open on only one day, Sunday should be that day. If they could be kept open two days, those days should be Sunday and Saturday.

Probably if it were simply imperative—which we do not in the least believe it to be—to close them on one day, the best day to offer up as a sacrifice would be Monday. But to select Sunday as the day of uselessness is an act of folly and of disregard for the welfare of the people the libraries are meant to serve which ought to bar every person responsible for it from all share in the future management of a public institution.

Not only should the libraries be open on Sundays—they should be open in the evening. If they can be open all day and all evening, too, so much the better, but if they can be made available for only eight hours a day, those eight hours should be from three until eleven. But the additional expense of keeping them open day and evening too would be very slight. A very small force would suffice to look after them in the first shift, and most of the employees would not need to come until the second.

The bulk of the money that supports the public libraries is paid by the masses of the people.

These people can get no benefit from a library that is closed at night and on Sundays—the only times when they are at leisure.

Therefore a grant of public money to a library that is closed at such times is payment for services that are not rendered.

Let the city refuse to pay a single cent toward the support of any library that is closed when the people want to use it.

A Knight of the Nineteenth Century.

We have lost the greatest soldier in our Philippine army—a knight without fear and without reproach. Gallant, brilliant, kindly—as big of heart as of body—Henry W. Lawton was the man of all others whom we could least have spared.

It was one of the pitiful ironies of fate that after going through the four years of carnage of the civil war, including the Inferno of Chickamauga, fighting the most ferocious Indians on our frontier, taking part in the fiercest battles of the Spanish war and plunging through the thick of the Philippines rebellion, General Lawton should have been killed by one of the last desultory shots of that revolt, just in the dawn of peace. In nearly forty years of reckless exposure he had acquired a contempt for bullets which his long immunity seemed to justify, but the pitcher that went too often to the well has been broken at last.

The British officers who expose themselves to the fire of the Boer sharpshooters are compelled to do so by a service tradition which holds it unbecoming an officer to seek cover. There was no such compulsion in Lawton's case. He was reckless, not because he had to be to save his credit, nor because he wanted to display his courage, but simply because he liked to be where things were hot. It was as natural for him to ride in front of the trenches on his big white horse as it would have been for a coward to skulk. He was more reckless than any general ought to be, but he was merely following his nature.

The loss of General Lawton will be felt as much in peace as in war. He understood the Filipinos, sympathized with them, and could have helped them to build up their institutions under our flag. The man that killed him did as ill a turn to his people as Wilkes Booth did to the South.

Let Us Have Tunnels to Brooklyn.

In the present congested condition of traffic between Manhattan and Brooklyn the ferries from Thirty-fourth street to the Battery, as well as the New York end of the Bridge, are the scenes of daily scrimmages in which men, women and children are trampled under foot, hustled roughly by the police or jammed into insufficient cars by uniformed inspectors.

In such an emergency the present time is not a suitable one for altercation among the city authorities as to the relative desirability of bridges or tunnels across or under the East River.

What we need, and what we must have, is rapid transit to Brooklyn. The case is urgent and the earliest relief will be best.

It would seem, therefore, that in advocating tunnels instead of the bridges proposed by Mayor Van Wyck, Comptroller Coler has taken an exceedingly sensible view of the situation.

Eventually, of course, we should have plenty of bridges. It is a great thing to be able to ride through the air over the river and above the ships, but it takes more time and money to build bridges than we can spare in the present emergency.

Here, in part, is Mr. Coler's argument:

The city has about \$50,000,000 margin now. I expect that we will have not less than \$65,000,000 next year. If you shall decide to put \$20,000,000 into bridges now and from \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000 in an underground railroad, you will compel this city to deal with private corporations for many things which should be done by the city. You will compel private ownership of municipal franchises. In short, you will compel the administration to repudiate the platform upon which it was elected.

A tunnel to Queens can be built within two years. It will give immediate relief. It will increase real estate value so that the bridge can be built later, if it shall be needed, and the expenditure will not be felt.

Comptroller Coler also points to the fact that three tunnels can be built for the cost of a single bridge. Another argument in their favor is that they may be built with home labor, while bridges are constructed in other States.

The Comptroller properly calls attention to evidences of a real estate deal in the matter of the contemplated bridge from Sixty-fourth street to the mud flats of Newtown. Mr. Coler holds that there will be no demand for such a bridge within the next fifty years, and that it would benefit nobody so much as the real estate speculators who have recently acquired land in Newtown.

We hope that Mr. Coler will keep up his fight for tunnels and that the city will go about the work at once.

If Mr. Coler continues on his present course his career as a public officer will be a very distinguished one. We congratulate Mr. McLaughlin upon the fact that the portion of the municipal ticket selected by his organization has been the chief factor in preserving the credit of the Democratic administration.

Appreciates the Journal.

To the Editor of the New York Journal:

As one of the hundreds of thousands who will read and appreciate the I want to thank the Sunday Journal for those excellent articles on the English and the Boers from Haggard, Bigelow and Leyds. They give your readers more information in less space than they are likely to find anywhere else about a subject in which every intelligent adult reader of the daily papers is now intensely interested.

The Saturday Evening Journal's leader on "Labor Injunctions" was also very illuminating, and Ella Wheeler Wilcox's beautiful poem in to-day's Sunday Journal is good enough to be set to music and sung everywhere in every society of women.

Amsterdam, N. Y., Dec. 17.

Against the Trusts.

To the Editor of the New York Journal:

It was with pleasure I read your article in Sunday's Journal condemning the beef trusts and New Central R. R. for blocking the streets by switching the cars into beef houses. The conversation in the car to-night was of your article. Keep it up, and, as one man in the car would sooner fight the Boers than the New York Journal.

DANIEL WEBER.

PLAIN TALK WITH THE PEOPLE.

An Opening in the Pirate Business.

Editor of the New York Journal:

Will the United States miss their opportunity of invading Canada, seizing British West Indies and annexing Australasia? Awake to your opportunities, expansionists! A. A. STEROPES, Dec. 17, 1899.

There is nothing small about this correspondent. We are compelled reluctantly to inform him that we do not see any prospect that the United States will undertake the trifling little contracts he mentions. The "opportunities" will have to go unimproved. If we felt any inclination to push our position as the paramount power of this continent to extremes, not to speak of engaging in highway robbery in Australasia, the experience of Great Britain in South Africa at the present moment would be quite sufficient to make us think better of the idea.

Government Commercial Banking.

Editor of the New York Journal:

The Journal is showing the white feather in doubting the ability of this Government to run the banking system. Such doubts display great financial ignorance, as the Government can hire or command the highest financial ability of this nation. JACOB B. COATES.

Thus are problems over which men have consumed the midnight electric light and printed hundreds of futile volumes settled on a postal card at the modest expense of one cent. One lurking doubt still lingers, however. Of course our Government could hire or command the highest financial ability of this nation, but would it always want to? And if it did, and the highest financial ability of the nation were given the privilege of lending four thousand million dollars of Government banking funds on commercial collateral, where would the money be likely to fetch up?

Driven from the Speedway.

Editor of the New York Journal:

Last Sunday I borrowed a horse and buggy from a friend of mine and started out with my wife and child for a drive.

I live in the upper part of the city near the Speedway, and own my own house, although it is not a valuable one, as I am a mechanic. I started to go on the Speedway, but was stopped by a mounted policeman. "You can't go on here with that rig," he said. I argued with him, but he would not let me drive on the most enjoyable drive in the city. Is this a free city or not? A. L.

Dec. 18.

We are sorry that you are not part owner of the Speedway. It was built for an exclusive class, not for the common people. When you can produce credentials to the effect that you own a trotter with a 2:20 record and an affidavit that you are able to crack a bottle of champagne at a roadhouse you may drive on the Speedway.

In the meantime you must continue to be a poor worm of clay like the rest of us. All that you are now required to do is to pay a tax for the maintenance of the policeman who drove you away. Neither must you fail to pay a tax for the cleaning of the Speedway and for its repairs.

Do not lose time in inquiring why the owners of fast horses who drive on the Speedway are not taxed for the privilege. You pay proportionately just as much as they do, but you have no privileges. All of which leads to divers and sundry reflections which we have not space to enumerate.

Capital Punishment No Deterrent.

To the Editor of the New York Journal:

The atonement of history is not! No man, no government, no power has right to take that which it cannot restore. There are many instances where innocent men have suffered the death penalty. In such cases murder is just as surely done, although legal, as though it were done in cold blood. How can that crime be atoned?

Make the penalty for murder hard labor for life. Take from the Executive the pardoning power, except where innocence is afterward established, and in such case full reparation can be made. Many guilty now escape because juries and courts fear to convict except upon the most positive evidence, and crime goes unpunished. Then conviction would follow where the testimony was sufficient, and if error was made the hands of court and jury would be purged. "Thou shalt not kill" applies with equal force to all. S. D. BINGHAM.

Naugatuck, Conn., Dec. 18.

SOCIETY BECOMES STRICT IN THE MATTER OF SETS.

Distinct Division, Apparent on the Opening Night of Grand Opera, Gave Notice That the Rule of Exclusiveness Is Established Permanently—Mrs. George Crocker Shines as Patroness of American Arts and Industries.



By Gholly Knickerbocker.

SOCIETY has become absolute in the matter of sets.

On Monday evening at the opera—and you will observe the same thing on other nights—the Harriman-Park-Teller set remained absolutely apart from the Oelrichs and Jays. Mrs. Astor is neutral, but Mrs. Gerry and Mrs. Mills uphold the very pillars of society.

Now, the Crocker musicale was an example. Mrs. George Crocker belongs to the Oelrichs set. This is quite a different set from the one of which Miss Crocker, of California, is a member. She is being chaperoned by Mrs. Ogden Mills and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid. She is a very pretty girl and not at all what she was described.

There was another Miss Crocker, tall and willowy, who made her appearance during the Horse Show, and people insisted that it was the great California heiress. Miss Crocker—the real Miss Crocker—is rather petite, with a piquant face, and more of a brunette than a blonde. In her simple little gown and the wreath of pink roses around her hair—very much in the style of the sixties—one would have hardly thought last Monday evening that she was the richest girl in the Metropolitan Opera House.

Mrs. George Crocker's musicale last evening was one of yesterday's most brilliant social events. It served as a housewarming, for it was the first entertainment given by her in her new home, No. 1 East Sixty-fourth street, which is one of the handsomest houses in the fashionable millionaire district opposite Central Park.

The entire house was in holiday trim for the occasion. Palms and Christmas greens decorated it, and quantities of English holly were used effectively in the halls and dining rooms.

Mrs. Crocker, assisted by her daughters, the Misses Rutherford, received her guests at the entrance to the drawing room, a magnificent Louis XV. apartment, done in pink and old tapestry. She wore a gown of white velvet embroidered with mauve orchids, and some exquisite pearls. Miss Rutherford was gowned in white satin and lace and Miss Emma Rutherford in blue chiffon trimmed with silver.

A delightful musical programme was rendered in the drawing room by Mrs. Emma Nevada, Signor Campanari and Mr. Alexandre Petschikoff, the cellist. Mr. Orton Bradley was at the piano.

After the musicale, supper was served at small tables by Sherry in the dining room and the big supper room downstairs. During supper there was music by the Hungarian band, which was stationed in a grove of palms in the corridor. About two hundred of the fashionable set enjoyed Mrs. Crocker's hospitality.

The Countess Meretti has made an excellent impression. He is dark, rather short, but with charming manners. His engagement to Miss Wright was announced by Mrs. Thomas Hunger Pratt, her mother, at the dinner dance. It was a pretty affair, not very crowded, and the guests were mostly from the set which go to Mrs. Church's Friday evening class. The wedding will take place here. The best man sails in a few weeks from Europe. Miss Wright has a fortune, and as she is a very pretty girl she will make a charming Countess. The Meretti is a great deal in Paris.

Mrs. Kendall yesterday spoke on South Africa at Mrs. Westervelt's. It was the occasion of a tea, and Mrs. Westervelt's rooms were crowded to hear dear Madge. I believe Madge had been in South Africa some years, but Madge never loses an opportunity to speak on any popular subject which may come up. Leonidas Westervelt is writing another novel. Mrs. Fred Nelson was with Mrs. Westervelt on Monday evening, and the second tier was rather a surprise to her. But I saw Miss Burden up there also, and Mrs. Henry Burnett, who was with the Browns.

We are now all waiting for the private theatricals which Mrs. Gould gives this week at Georgian Court. The rehearsals have been frequent, and it will be one of the most gorgeous entertainments of the year, as the house party is very large. A special train will take down others. I spoke of Mrs. Nelson a little while ago. She is going abroad to live for two years, and on the ship on which she sails there will be quite a number of the exclusives. Mrs. Lodenburg and the Astors sail about the same time. Harry Lehr is still as devoted as ever to Mrs. Astor. He always arrives at the opera at an early hour and sits in the box until Mrs. Astor arrives. I find her looking very badly, and, in fact, it seems to be her indomitable will which gives her the courage to go out in society so much. She was a perfect

mass of jewels, and there were no diamonds like hers on Monday night.

There is, however, among many of the women a disposition to wear gowns without any sleeves. Mrs. Starr Miller, who is in mourning for her sister, who died a few months ago, wore diamond straps in lieu of sleeves. Mrs. John Jacob Astor's gown had no sleeves visible, but was held on in some kind of way, and Lady Colbrook—who has grown stout—was also minus sleeves. Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Reid, on the contrary, wore genuine old-fashioned sleeves, but Mrs. Gerry had none, and her bridesmaid gown fitted her like the armor plate in the Amazons' march.

Mrs. Beach did not appear at the opera, although she was expected. She has with her wedding given up mourning for her mother, who died in September. Mrs. Robert Golet is to be seen at the matinees, and the Willie Sloanes are beginning to go out, and before a few weeks all the nieces and nephews of the Vanderbilts will have laid aside their mourning.

I am glad to see that Mrs. Richard Hunt is going out. She is almost as handsome as her sister, Mrs. Ollie Harriman, and she has been so domestic for so long, way down there in Garden City, that it is refreshing to see her again. Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson, who is the model for all Gibson's lovely women, looked at the opera on Monday night like one of the daughters of the famous Mr. Pipp. She seemed to have stepped out of the pages of that wonderful book.

Mrs. Thomas Hunger Pratt, of No. 29 Waverley place, gave a dinner dance at Sherry's last evening for her daughter, Miss Harriette Wright, whose engagement to Count Alexandre Meretti, of Athens, was exclusively announced in the Journal last week. At the dinner last night formal announcement of it was made and the pretty bride to be was the recipient of many congratulations. In the reception room of the large ballroom, dinner was served at small tables, which were decorated with Legeron hats filled with pink roses and white hyacinths.

Covers were laid for fifty-eight, the guests including Count Meretti, General and Mrs. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest La Montagne, Mr. and Mrs. John Westervelt, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas B. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. James Converse, Mr. and Mrs. William Bloodgood, Mrs. Horace Pratt, Mrs. John Foster, Pankhurst, Miss Wright's grand-daughters, Miss Di Zerega, Miss Lounsburg, Miss Angelica Church, Miss Alberta Sturgis, Miss Jane Plummer, Miss Barnes, Miss Pauline Ives, Miss Augusta Robinson, Miss Edith Plummer and Miss Grace Gillette.

Additional guests were invited to the dance, which followed in the small ballroom. Miss Wright's marriage will take place in Cannes in April, or in London during the early part of June.

Mrs. Egbert Guernsey and Miss Florence Guernsey received yesterday afternoon at their home, No. 180 West Fifty-ninth street, in honor of Miss Minnie Madden Fliske, whose birth anniversary it was. The drawing rooms were prettily decorated with palms and Christmas greens for the occasion, and several hundred people called to meet "Becky Sharpe." Assisting Mrs. and Miss Guernsey in receiving were Mrs. Lyman Fliske, Mrs. George H. Clowes, Mrs. Austin H. Catlin, Mrs. Charles Frederick Naething, Mrs. Samuel Duncan Miller and Mrs. Samuel Shipley Blood. Gypsy Queen Stella presided over the punch bowl. Those invited included Mr. and Mrs. Seth Low, General and Mrs. Collins, Colonel and Mrs. Eugene Griffen, Mrs. Frederick Dent Grant, Amos F. Eno, General and Mrs. Ferdinand P. Earle, General and Mrs. Howard Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Danforth, Mrs. Henry Drissler, Rev. and Mrs. D. Parker Morgan, Mrs. Washington Roehling, Miss Helen Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Postley and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Stedman.

Notes of Society.

Mrs. Charles T. Barney, No. 101 East Thirty-eighth street, has sent out invitations for a dinner party on Christmas.

Mrs. William Butler Duncan, No. 1 Fifth avenue; Mrs. Anson W. Hard, No. 49 Park avenue; Mr. Jeremiah Curtin, No. 1 East Fifty-third street, and Mrs. John Sloane, No. 883 Fifth avenue, will entertain at dinner on Christmas.

Mme. Le Plongeon will give one of a series of Thursday morning lectures on "Ancient America" to-morrow at the home of Mrs. Egbert Guernsey, No. 180 West Fifty-ninth street, under the patron-

age of Mrs. Daniel Butterfield, Mrs. Howard Carroll, Mrs. Clarence Postley and others.

Mrs. Francis H. Leggett will give a Christmas house party at her country home, Stone Ridge, Ulster County, in honor of Miss Harriette Wright and her fiancé, Count Alexandre Meretti, of Athens.

After the holidays the Tuxedo Club will move into the new quarters, which will be known as the "Winter Club." The main club house will be entirely remodelled during the Winter.

Mr. Richard Mortimer's new house on West Lake road, Tuxedo, will be ready for occupancy by the first of April. It has been three years building and is one of the finest in the Park.

Christmas week at Tuxedo promises to be very gay. All the rooms in the club house and annexes have been engaged. Great preparations are being made for the annual New Year's ball, which will be held there.

The marriage of Miss Mary Woodbridge Tiffany, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Tiffany, to Graham Lusk will be celebrated at noon to-day in the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. Miss Sophonisba Preston Steele, daughter of Dr. Theophilus Steele, will be married at noon to Mr. Ralph Freeman Shropshire at All Angels' Church, West End avenue and Eighty-first street.

Mrs. Charles Campbell Goffe, No. 174 West Seventy-fifth street, will give a reception this afternoon to introduce Miss Elizabeth Wheelwright Goffe.

Mrs. Ernest La Montagne, No. 114 East Thirtieth street, will give a reception this afternoon.

Mrs. Pierrepont Edwards, No. 12 East Fifty-sixth street, will give a tea this afternoon.

Mrs. Henry Duncan Wood and Miss Eleanor D. Wood, No. 58 West Fifty-first street, will receive this afternoon.

Mrs. Frederic H. Betts, No. 22 East Sixty-fifth street, gave an afternoon reception yesterday in honor of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wylis Rosalier Betts, who was Miss Ada Godfrey.

The second of the fortnightly dances was given at the Waldorf-Astoria last evening under the patronage of Mrs. Henry P. Loomis, Mrs. L. Jacquelin Smith, Mrs. Charles Sands, Mrs. A. A. Low, Mrs. Charles Huntington, Mrs. Edward Bidle, Mrs. Lewis Livingston Deland, Mrs. Robert Abbe, Mrs. Alexander D. Shaw and Mrs. Frederic Goodridge. Mr. Amory Hawes led the cotillon, for which some pretty favors were provided.

Mrs. A. Lanfer Norrie entertained at dinner last evening at her home, No. 15 East Eighty-fifth street.

Mrs. Emily Metzger, daughter of Mrs. Theresa Metzger, of No. 57 East Seventy-second street, was married last evening at Delmonico's to Mr. Charles Jacobson. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Fannie Metzger. Mr. William E. Finn was the best man and the Messrs. Sidney New, Harold Stern, Joseph Stroock, James Frank, George Boehm, Charles Kranich, Samuel Kridel and Charles Greenhall served as ushers. After the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Dr. K. Kohler, a bridal dinner was served. Dancing followed.

Mr. Elliott Schenck gave the third of his explanatory recitals on Wagner's music dramas yesterday morning at the Berkeley Lyceum. He discussed "Tannhauser" and "Lohengrin."

Miss Plunkham's "High Noon" concert at Sherry's yesterday was well patronized by society. A delightful programme was rendered.

The annual Christmas ball of the Juniors of Columbia University at Sherry's last evening was a great success. The ball room was prettily decorated with trophies of the athletic field and the college colors. Supper was served in the small ball room.

Many debutantes were present, and among the patronesses were Mrs. George B. De Forest, Mrs. Lloyd S. Bryce, Mrs. J. L. Kernochan, Mrs. Frederic R. Couderc, Mrs. Seth Low and Mrs. William R. Grace.

TO HONOR A CATHOLIC WRITER.

A PLEA BY THE REV. DR. O'DWYER.

THE REV. DR. DANIEL HENRY O'DWYER, president of the Fordham College Alumni Association, and rector of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, in West Seventy-first street, writes to the Journal as follows:

"The enclosed appeal I deem a very interesting news item to our Catholic population, for their hearts are very close to the old college at Fordham."

"As president of this society I am deeply concerned for its success, and ask you kindly, by giving this notice some little prominence, to lend me your valuable co-operation. With best wishes for the coming year, I am, etc."

Here is the appeal: "Dear Brother Alumni: In the person of Fr. Jounin one of Fordham's greatest teachers passed away. By his death Catholics have lost an edu-

cator whose influence was more widely felt than that of any other Catholic teacher in America. His 'Mental' and his 'Moral Philosophy,' and his 'Evidences of Religion' have been the keys to the higher realms of thought for most of the present generation of educated Catholics. His text books have been the guide to right-thinking in intellectual, ethical and religious problems for Catholic students all over the country for a quarter of a century."

"Fordham men will not willingly see his memory die out now that what was earthly of him has passed away. It seems proper that some memorial of him should exist in the college he loved so well, and where we learned to think so much of him."

"After consultation with many of the prominent alumni of St. John's, it is proposed by a committee appointed for the purpose to establish a Jounin fund at Fordham. As a prize already exists for mental philosophy—the Kelly medal—it is proposed

to give another annually in the subject of 'Evidences of Religion.' The fund for a suitable medal should amount to somewhat more than one thousand dollars. It is proposed to raise this sum by subscription among the alumni of St. John's. Over two hundred and fifty dollars has been subscribed already. Subscriptions of from twenty-five to ten dollars are asked for."

"You are cordially invited to subscribe for this very worthy purpose, and are asked to send your name with the amount of your subscription to the treasurer, Mr. R. S. Treacy, No. 285 West Forty-second street, New York, at your earliest convenience."

"The president, Rev. Daniel Henry O'Dwyer, has appointed the following Jounin Memorial Committee: Rt. Rev. Mrs. Moore, '97, chairman; Very Rev. William McNulty, '33; General Martin T. McMahon, '55; Very Rev. James S. Lynch, '97; Rev. James J. Flood, '88; Martin J. Fleming, M. D., '68; Rich. J. S. Treacy, '69; Austin P. O'Malley, M. D., '94; James J. Walsh, M. D., '94; Hon. Morgan J., '94."